IN THE CLAIMS

1.　　(Currently Amended)　A method of customizing a rule-based application, the method comprising:

designating a customizable element of a set as a customizable template <u>by inserting a template modifier before the customizable element in source code for the rule-based application</u>, the customizable element being selected by ~~an~~ <u>a first</u> end-user;

compiling said customizable element into at least one object to form a ruleset;

parsing said set to detect said customizable element designated as a customizable template;

<u>customizing said customizable element under instruction from a second end user different from the first end user;</u> and

enabling editing of said rule-based application during runtime processing of said ruleset in an environment in which said rule-based application executes.

2.　　(Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said set comprises a ruleset.

3.　　(Cancelled)

4.　　(Cancelled)

5.　　(Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said customizable element comprises a variable.

6.　　(Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said customizable element comprises a rule.

7.　　(Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said customizable element comprises a ruleset.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising designating a ruleset of said set as a customizable ruleset template.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising generating a customized ruleset from the customizable ruleset template.

10.   (Cancelled)

11.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising enabling customization in a development environment.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising re-editing a previously generated rule.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a new ruleset is generated from a customizable ruleset template, and a pre-existing customizable rule template is associated with said new ruleset and is unchanged.

14. – 31. (Cancelled)

32.   (Currently Amended)   A method of customizing a rule-based application, the method comprising:

 designating a customizable element of a set as a customizable template by inserting a template modifier before the customizable element in source code for the rule-based application, the customizable element being selected by an a first end-user, where the customizable element is one of: a variable, a rule, or a ruleset;

 compiling said customizable element into at least one object to form a ruleset;

 parsing said set to detect said customizable element designated as a customizable template;

 customizing said customizable element under instruction from a second end user different from the first end user; and

editing said customizable element during runtime processing of said ruleset in an environment in which the rule-based application executes, where said editing comprises generating a new ruleset from a customizable ruleset template, and where a pre-existing customizable rule template is associated with said new ruleset and is unchanged.

33.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the designating comprises:

setting a constraint on valid values for the customizable element.

34.   (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the valid values comprise a discrete list of one or more valid values.

35.   (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the valid values comprise a range of values.

36.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said enabling comprises:

carrying information about said customizable element along with run-time instantiations of ruleset objects.